

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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USIA-06 AID-05 IO-04 COME-00 EB-04 FRB-01 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-05

CU-02 DRC-01 INT-05 STR-01 CEA-01 /091 W

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R 230915Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8214

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 5056

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGEGC ASEAN MY

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER RAZAK OPENS FIRST JOINT MEETING
OF ALL ASEAN COMMITTEES, OCTOBER 22 - 24

1. PRIME MINISTER TUN ABDUL RAZAK MADE FOLLOWING
PRINCIPAL POINTS IN A SPEECH OPENING THE JOINT THREE-DAY,
OCTOBER 22 - 24, MEETING OF ASEAN STANDING COMMITTEE
AND SECRETARIES-GENERAL, AND ASEAN PERMANENT COMMITTEES
CHAIRMEN IN KUALA LUMPUR:

A. -- PROGRESS. ASEAN TODAY HAS ELEVEN PERMANENT
COMMITTEES AND FIVE SPECIAL COMMITTEES TO COORDINATE
JOINT EFFORTS IN AREAS SUCH AS TOURISM, AGRICULTURE,
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND CULTURE. IN PAST TWO YEARS
ASEAN HAS ALSO MADE JOINT APPROACHES TO EEC AND JAPAN,
AND ESTABLISHED AN IMPORTANT LINK WITH AUSTRALIA.
NEVERTHELESS, ADVANCES MADE ON THE PLANE OF ECONOMIC
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COOPERATION HAVE BEEN MODEST.

B. -- EVALUATION. THERE IS NEED FOR A SERIOUS EXAMINATION OF THE ACTUAL EFFECTIVENESS OF ASEAN AND OF HOW TO MAXIMIZE THESE BENEFITS AT LEAST COST.

C. -- SECRETARIAT. INTEREST OF ASEAN WILL BEST BE SERVED IF THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT ARE INITIALLY ORIENTED TOWARDS ASSISTING THE SEVERAL ASEAN COMMITTEES AND NATIONAL SECRETARIATS. ASEAN SHOULD START WITH A SMALL SECRETARIAT TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE NUCLEUS FOR AN ACTION-ORIENTED ROLE. LET THE SECRETARIAT BE GIVEN TIME TO GROW AS AND WHEN THE NEED ARISES. WE MUST AVOID HAVING A BIG ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE WHICH RAISES HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS OF OUR PEOPLE AND IN THE END ONLY BRINGS DISAPPOINTMENT AND FRUSTRATION.

D. -- JOINT MARKETING. IN THE FACE OF THE UNSETTLED INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS THROUGH WHICH WE ARE GOING, IT IS BOTH WISE AND REALISTIC THAT WE SHOULD COOPERATE TOGETHER IN THE MARKETING OF COMMODITIES SUCH AS RUBBER, TIN, PALM OIL, AND TIMBER IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKETS TO ENSURE FAIR AND REASONABLE PRICES FOR THESE COMMODITIES.

E. -- POLITICAL ASPECTS. THE MOST SALIENT ACHIEVEMENT OF ASEAN HAS BEEN ITS CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS DEVELOPING REGIONAL POLITICAL CONSENSUS AND COHESION THAT MAY WELL USHER THE EVOLUTION OF A COMMUNITY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA WHICH WOULD TAKE ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE AS A VIABLE, SELF-RELIANT UNIT WITHIN THE COMITY OF NATIONS. ASEAN IS A FACT OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL LIFE AND ASEAN HAS ENTERED THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL VOCABULARY. ASEAN AND THE CONCEPT OF A SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGIONALISM IS CENTRAL TO THE PREOCCUPATION OF OUR RESPECTIVE GOVTS: IT IS CERTAINLY CENTRAL TO MY OWN GOVT.

2. EMBASSY PLANS CABLE WRAP-UP OF ASEAN MEETING FOLLOWING CLOSE OF THREE-DAY SESSION AND WILL POUCH TEXTS OF RAZAK SPEECH AND OTHER DOCUMENTS AS AVAILABLE.
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